

Appl. No. 09/379,492
Amendment dated: February 13, 2004
Reply to OA dated: January 16, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40(canceled).

41(new). An aerosol dispenser comprising a body, a closure sealed to the body, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal weld and wherein the aerosol dispenser is an inhaler and contains an aerosol medicament.

42(new). An aerosol dispenser comprising a body, a closure sealed to the body, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal weld between annular flanges on the body and closure extending circumferentially about the axis of the body and closure and wherein the flanges are welded, rolled and crimped together.

43(new). An aerosol dispenser comprising a body, a closure sealed to the body, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal weld between annular flanges on the body and closure extending circumferentially about the axis of the body and closure and wherein the flanges are axially directed and cylindrical.

44(new). An aerosol dispenser comprising a body, a closure sealed to the body, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal weld between annular flanges on the body and closure extending circumferentially about the axis of the body and closure and wherein one of the flanges is of greater width than the other, and

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wherein the outer edge portion of the wider flange forms a U within which the outer edge portion of the narrower flange is located, both said edge portions extending generally parallel to the adjacent wall of the body.

45(new). An aerosol dispenser according to claim 44 wherein the flanges are rolled and crimped after they have been welded together.

46(new). An aerosol dispenser as claimed in claim 45, wherein the aerosol dispenser is an inhaler containing an aerosol medicament.

47(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser comprising a metal body, a metal closure, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal seal and the closure, which comprises an annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, is positioned at the open end of and coaxially with the body, which comprises a complementary annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, such that the flanges are parallel and in contact with each other and the flanges are bent to lie in a substantially axial direction after the flanges have been welded together.

48(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser comprising a metal body, a metal closure, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal seal and the closure, which comprises an annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, is positioned at the open end of and coaxially with the body, which comprises a complementary annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, such that the flanges are parallel and in contact with each other and the said flanges are axially directed and cylindrical.

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49(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser according to claim 48 wherein the ultrasonic welding head causes relative vibration between the flanges in an axial direction.

50(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser comprising a metal body, a metal closure, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser, wherein the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal seal and the closure, which comprises an annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, is positioned at the open end of and coaxially with the body, which comprises a complementary annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, such that the flanges are parallel and in contact with each other and one of the said flanges is of greater width than the other and after the flanges have been welded together the wider flange is rolled and crimped around the other flange.

51(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser according to claim 50 wherein the aerosol dispenser is an inhaler and an aerosol medicament is added to the dispenser and pressurized.

52(new). A method of assembling an aerosol dispenser comprising a metal body, a metal closure, and means for dispensing material from the interior of the dispenser and the closure is welded ultrasonically to the body by a metal-to-metal seal, wherein the closure, which comprises an annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, is positioned at the open end of and coaxially with the body, which comprises a complementary annular flange extending circumferentially about its axis, such that the flanges are parallel and in contact with each other and the flanges are rolled and crimped after they have been welded together and the aerosol dispenser is an inhaler and an aerosol medicament is added to the dispenser and pressurized.